

WELLINGTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
(SOMERSET)

ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1953

* * *

BY

DR. HUGH MORRISON,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1953.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
TAUNTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND TAUNTON SANATORIUM, TAUNTON.

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1953.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid year, 1953.			7,376
Census population (Preliminary Report 1951) ..			7,298
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1953.			2,419
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1953	...		£41,924
Sum represented by a 1 ^d . Rate, 31st December, 1953.			£167-12-0.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212 ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293 ft. in the region of the Cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rock (new red sandstone) here divisible into (1) marl, (2) sandstone, (3) conglomerate, (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the North West. Rockwell Green is on the marl. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belongs to the Keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rocks between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted, cloth, serge, flock, bedding, and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brick-making just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633 - in 1921 it was 7,212 - in 1931 it was 7,132 and in 1951 it was 7,298.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1953.

Live Births.	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	94	48	46	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.15
Illegitimate	3	1	2	
	<u>97</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>48</u>	

Still Births.	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate.	3	1	2	
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births				... 30.0
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..				0.41

Deaths - Total 86.
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 11.66

Deaths from Puerperal causes - Total ... nil.

	<u>Death Rates per 1,000 births.</u>	
From Puerperal Sepsis	nil	nil
From other Maternal causes	nil	nil

Death of infants under 1 year of age - Total ...	5	
Legitimate ...	...	4
Illegitimate ...	...	1
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births		51.55
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		42.55
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	...	333.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	...	-
Rates for England and Wales as a whole:-		
Live Births per 1,000 civilian population ...	...	15.5
Still Births per 1,000 civilian population ..	...	0.35
Deaths (all causes) per 1,000 civilian population		11.4
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	...	0.76
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	...	26.8

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953.

Cause of Death.	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis respiratory ...	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other ...	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease ...	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections ...	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ...	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, bronchus ...	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ...	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasms, uterus ...	-	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	4	2	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	2	-	2
Diabetes ...	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	4	5	9
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	5	7	12
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	-	3	3
Other Heart disease ...	6	6	12
Other circulatory disease ...	4	4	8
Influenza ...	2	-	2
Pneumonia ...	2	2	4
Bronchitis ...	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	-	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations ...	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	3	4	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	-	-	-
All other Accidents ...	3	-	3
Suicide ...	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-
All causes - Total:	45	41	86

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1953.

The death of five infants under the age of one year giving an infantile mortality rate of 51.55 is compared with the rate for England and Wales, which was 26.80.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1953.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks.	1 to 6 months	6 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	2	-	2
Extreme Immaturity	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital abresia of the Duodenum	1	-	-	-	1
Total	2	1	2	-	5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Domiciliary Services.

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the Urban District. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and the Home Help Service administered by the Somerset County Council renders most useful aid.

Hospital Services.

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below:-

GENERAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital, together with Musgrove Park Hospital, which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Paediatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology and Ear, Nose and Throat work. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose. Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to larger institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Urban District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. This hospital was

administered up to the 4th July, 1948, by a Joint Hospital Board, representing the various districts from which cases were admitted. Since that date, administration has passed to the Regional Hospital Board, with day to day management being carried out by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee. There are three large wards for the isolation and treatment of patients suffering from the commoner epidemic diseases, but these have become less useful since Diphtheria has become an immunisation campaign, and since Scarlet Fever has apparently entered a mild phase in which most of the cases can be successfully isolated and nursed at home. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in a more recently constructed cubicle block. The hospital has been admitting in the past year or two many cases, especially among children, of various pyrexial and nutritional illnesses not coming into strict category of notifiable diseases, which would formerly have been treated in General Hospitals. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

TUBERCULOSIS. Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physician for the area. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

POLIOMYELITIS. Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists, who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

SMALL-POX. Provision for the accommodation of cases of small-pox is made at a Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater. Fortunately there has been no need to use the institution for this purpose for many years.

CHRONIC SICK, AGED and INFIRM. Holmoor House, Taunton, admits cases of chronic illness from the district, and aged and infirm cases who do not require regular medical and nursing attention are admitted to The Lodge, Wellington.

MENTAL SICK. Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients' clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital, which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

TUBERCULOSIS. Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various



groups of the County population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, and Wellington is one of the districts which has had the benefit of this service.

VENEREAL DISEASE. A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. The centre has now come under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington at which some of the mothers from Taunton Rural District are confined. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

A weekly clinic is held in premises at Messrs. Fox Bros. & Co. Ltd., An Assistant County Child Welfare Medical Officer attends on the first and third Fridays of each month, in addition to the District Midwives who attend weekly.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical Analyses are carried out as required by the County Analyst who has his Laboratory in Taunton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.
No action has been taken under this Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sandstone at Westford and Payton and a bore-hole at Pitt Farm. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (180,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell Green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer. The following is a chemical analysis of the raw water which shows its freedom from more than traces of organic impurity.



(All results in parts per million).

Physical characters	...	...	Clear and Bright.
Reaction	...	...	Very slightly alkaline
			pH 7.3
Total Solids	...	...	392.0
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	...	...	265.0
Total hardness	...	...	270.0
(a) Temporary	...	...	230.0
(b) Permanent	...	...	40.0
Chlorides	...	...	35.0
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia			0.002
Nitrogen as Albuminoid free Ammonia			0.036
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	4.0
Nitrogen as Nitrites	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80 deg.F.)	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	9.0
Poisonous Metals	...	...	Nil
Iron	...	...	0.5
Sediment	...	...	None.

"The water is hard, the hardness being all bicarbonate. It contains very little organic impurity.

The supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and as regards quantity the supply is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply.

Four samples of raw water on bacteriological examination gave good results. Of eight samples of chlorinated water, taken from consumers' taps, which were bacteriologically examined, all gave satisfactory results. A sample from each of the following sources of supply has been chemically analysed: Westford Springs, Payton Springs and Pitt Farm Bore-hole. All gave satisfactory results but the degrees of hardness in each case is somewhat high. The high iron content of the Pitt Farm Bore-hole water gives some concern and the Council have had plans under consideration for the treatment of this defect.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the total hardness being 270.0 parts per million.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows :-

(a) Water laid direct to houses	...	...	2242
Population supplied	...	...	6743
(b) Houses supplied by means of standpipes			42
Population supplied	do.	do.	137

There are 31 houses relying on well supplies in the District which are unable to obtain water from the public mains chiefly on account of the dwellings being an unreasonable distance from the mains and their inaccessibility.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The Tone Sewage Works consists essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which flows on to sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It appears to be of Statutory quality and causes no nuisance in the river. The effluent continues to give satisfactory results on chemical analysis.

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town, known as Mitchell's Pool. It is intended that these works shall deal with future developments in the Pyles Thorne area. It is not capable without further enlargement of dealing with any large scale development on the Priory Estate.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system, that is, the sewers receive not only the sewerage proper but also any rain water that falls in the area.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a Woollen Factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the Sewage Works.

The water carriage system is practically universal in the District though not all closets have flushing cisterns. Some of the dwellings have water closets not connected to the sewer, 10 being houses at Spypost and Bagley, 34 at Westford, 5 at Payton and 11 at Rackfield, the others large houses and farms on the outskirts of the town.

As far as can be ascertained no crude sewage is discharged untreated but from 15 dwellings at Westford slop waters enters the stream in an untreated state.

Thirty-six houses are served by earth or chemical closets. These are in areas where no sewer is available and in the more rural parts of the District, mainly at Farthings Pitts, Westford, Winsbeer, Rackfield and Payton.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. This is undertaken by direct labour and all premises are visited weekly. The type of refuse now produced has a very high unburnable content due to the increasing installation of improved solid fuel heating and cooking appliances by which much of the domestic refuse is consumed leaving burnt ashes, dust tins and bottles etc. for disposal. This, when fed to the refuse destructor is not easily destroyed, and results in excessive clinkering. The destructor is incapable of dealing with the quantity of refuse now collected per day, approximately 9 tons, with the result that half this quantity has to be disposed of by tipping. The Council have given serious consideration to the provision of another destructor or alternatively acquiring a suitable site where controlled tipping may be operated.

The tip at White Ball in Wellington Rural District which the Council shared with the owner has ceased to operate due to its having become filled to capacity, and the site has been covered with soil. The Council have excavated a site adjoining the Tone Sewage Works and tipping is now carried out there in addition to the refuse dealt with by the destructor.

Trade refuse from business premises is collected weekly. Where business and living accommodation is combined one bin is collected free, and thereafter a charge of 8d. per bin is made for the first three bins and 6d. for each additional bin. The size of the bin is restricted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ cu.ft.

In 1926 the Council built a single chamber forced draught destructor; this has been worked to full capacity for some years.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS. No Council Houses or other premises were found to be infested during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. There are no offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be reasonably satisfactory and they are all on the public water supply and sewerage system.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the District which is open to the public. It is made considerable use of during the summer months and at times becomes overcrowded. The capacity of this pool is only 65,625 gallons. Twice bacteriological samples of the water were taken, both of which were satisfactory, and residual chlorine readings were taken twice weekly during the season. The great drawback to privately owned swimming pools is that proprietors are over-inclined to study economy by conserving the use of sterilising agents and thereby making supervision more difficult.

The Local Authority has definite powers and control over privately owned swimming baths and pools, the powers being available under Sects. 92 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR:-

Dwelling-Houses	...	...	471
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	...	...	78
Bakehouses	...	...	16
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.			7

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR:-

Informal Notices	...	...	87
Statutory Notices	...	...	0

RESULTS OF NOTICES SERVED:-

Total Notices complied with	...	...	97
Notices standing over at end of year	...	...	12

CONDITIONS REMEDIED:-

Defective Drainage	...	...	41
Defective Sanitary Fittings	...	...	37
Dampness abated	...	...	21
Provision of New Water Closets	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	94

DISINFECTANTS WERE FOR THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:-

Tuberculosis	...	...	3
Cancer	...	...	1

S H O P A C T.

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 63 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified by informal action. The number and types of defects which were rectified were as follows:-

Repair and renewal of Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	6
Provision of additional Cloakroom facilities	...	...	1
Provision of suitable Heating Arrangements	...	...	3
Provision of additional Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	6
Provision of additional Lighting and Ventilation	..	...	0
Provision of additional Washing facilities	...	...	18
Limewashing	...	...	1
Abatement of Nuisances	...	...	9

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It was not found necessary to take statutory action to get the above defects remedied and no action has been called for in relation to heating arrangements.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON: 1953.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health made
by the Sanitary Inspector :-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspection t ions (3)	Number of	
			Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	12	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	10	21	8	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	17	43	10	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness. (S.1).	6	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding. (S.2).	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	12	12	-	-	-

BAKEHOUSES. There are four bakehouses in the District and 13 inspections were made of them. They are all kept in a satisfactory condition and are all on the public water supply.

MEAT SUPPLY. Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter-houses, and the meat, after inspection, is distributed over a very large area. The slaughter-houses serving this District are situated in the Borough of Taunton and in the Taunton Rural District, where the Sanitary Inspectors of those Districts carry out inspection before distribution. This arrangement works very satisfactorily.

The number of animals killed for this district is not available as the slaughtering is carried out in Taunton Borough and Rural Districts. Details of the ante- and post-mortem inspection of animals together with the relevant tables will be found in the Annual Reports for these two authorities.

The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the owners and disposed of at the Council's refuse destructor:-

117 tins of Meat	289 lbs. of Butcher's Meat
131 tins of Fish	and offal.
87 tins of Milk	132 lbs. of Wet Fish.
253 tins of Fruit, Vegetable, Jam, Soup, etc.	64 lbs. of Dried Fruit.
51 Jars of Meat Extract.	26 tins of Liver Spread.
24 Tins of Apple Juice.	

Up to 1939, there were seven Registered and two licensed Slaughter-houses in the District.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS. No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District during the year under review.

FOOD PREMISES. In 1950 the Council adopted Bye-laws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. A copy of these Bye-laws was sent to each food trader in the District. Inspections are made of food premises and advice given on the Bye-laws and methods of improving conditions. It is pleasing to record that the Bye-laws have been well received and the majority of traders are willing to co-operate, particularly in the provision of hot water and washing facilities.

78 inspections have been made of the 40 registered food premises which are on the whole kept in a satisfactory state. The food traders are co-operative in having suggested improvements carried out and no exceptional difficulties have been encountered. There remains considerable improvement to be made in personal hygiene in the handling and wrapping of food. Some butchers continue to wrap meat in newspaper with only the minimum of greaseproof paper. It is hoped that legislation will soon be in force to prevent this.

There are 8 premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These are mainly butchers premises for the manufacture of preserved meats, meat pies and sausages, etc.

The various types of food premises consist of the following :-

Grocers & General Stores	39
Butchers	12
Hotels	3
Guest Houses	8
Cafés	7
Fried Foods and Snack Bars	3

MILK SUPPLY. Of the 16 farms in the District, 10 are supplied with water from the Public Supply, the remaining 6 are too far from the water mains to make the supply available.

Structural improvements to cowsheds and dairies have been continued to be made. Improvements such as new concrete floors, drainage, additional light and ventilation have been made without undue difficulty and it has not been necessary to serve notices to enforce this work.

Generally speaking the dairy farms are kept in a satisfactory condition and the milk producers are realising the advantages to themselves and the consumers of a wholesome and clean milk supply.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER. No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Number of Registered Dairies	11
Number of Retailers	6

ICE CREAM. Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, there are 32 premises registered for the sale of ice cream including three premises registered for manufacture of which one manufactures a hot mix.

The methylene-blue reduction test appears to be the simplest and most practicable single test for the routine grading of ice

cream. During the year, 16 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hall, Taunton, and classified as under :-

Grade 1	...	...	13
Grade 2	...	...	1
Grade 3	...	...	-
Grade 4	...	...	2

The quality of ice cream from any vendor is not assessed on the basis of a single sample; multiple samples are taken and a general opinion then formed. When results of samples are returned in Grades 3 or 4, visits to the premises are undertaken with a view to discovering the cause of the low grade. Invariably some course of contamination, or incomplete cleaning and sterilization of the plant is discovered. When precautions are taken on the advice given good results are usually produced.

Much of the low grading of ice cream is associated with faulty cleansing and sterilising of plant. The equipment used after the ice cream has been heat treated, namely cooler, storage tanks, freezer and pipes and valves going to the homogeniser, are the parts most likely to be the seat of the trouble.

HOUSING.

During the year 40 houses and flats were built by the Council and 6 houses by private enterprise whilst at the close of the year 28 dwellings were under construction by the Council and 4 dwellings by private enterprise. Of the 2419 dwellings in the district the Council owns 604. The number of applications on the waiting list for Council houses at the end of the year was 244.

Today, the repair of houses is of prime importance, and will remain so for many years to come. This work is seriously retarded by the result of the low standard of maintenance of house property during the war years, the high costs of building repairs and the low rents for cottage property with the result that owners cannot afford to carry out repairs. Many dwellings are falling into such a state of disrepair which will inevitably result in their demolition. Until such time as the Government evolves a scheme whereby these dwellings can be saved this unhappy state of affairs must continue.

There are far too many dwellings still occupied in Confirmed Clearance Areas which were condemned prior to 1939. Many of these premises are in a far worse state than when the Clearance Orders were made, as practically no maintenance work has been carried out on them and that which has been done has been a minimum. It is impracticable to ask owners to carry out extensive repairs when the premises are doomed to be demolished, and any amount of work carried out cannot make such dwellings reasonably fit.

The Council are anxious that these dwellings in Clearance Areas should be demolished but as no allocation of new houses is made for this purpose they are only able to proceed very slowly in the matter. This is a piece-meal method of dealing with clearance areas as it must necessarily take some time before an area is re-housed and the site cleared. The Council are derequisitioning houses held under their requisitioning powers to house persons inadequately housed.

The Council is progressing with the building of new houses, but it has not been possible to deal with the older type of house that is rapidly becoming decayed. These properties which have long out-lived their usefulness present a problem to many local authorities.

The Housing Act, 1936, which deals with the repair of houses, presents great difficulties owing to the very high cost of repairs, and it is hoped that in the near future some financial assistance will be forthcoming to owners of property who are prepared to put it into their property to bring it into a state of good repair.

Property which is below standard calls for a great deal of patience and tact all round, and in the meantime no end to the demand for new and improved accommodation can be seen for some years to come.

The following table shows the number of houses owned by the Council.

<u>Address.</u>			<u>No. of Houses.</u>
Longforth Road	{ Parlour }	...	14
Longforth Road	{ Parlour }	...	18
Church Fields	{ Parlour }	...	42
Victoria Street	{ Parlour }	...	8
Alexandra Road	{ Non-Parlour }	...	32
Olands Road	{ Non-Parlour }	...	24
Lower Foxmoor Road	{ Parlour }	...	16
Pope's Lane	{ Non-Parlour }	...	16
Crosslands	{ Non-Parlour }	...	14
Bendon Road	{ Non-Parlour }	...	52
Quantock Road	{ Non-Parlour }	...	34
Quantock Road	{ 1 Bedroom Flats }	...	12
Greenway Road	{ Non-Parlour }	...	28
Greenway Road	{ 1 Bedroom Flats }	...	8
Church Green	{ 1 Bedroom Flats }	...	8
Blackdown Road	{ Non-Parlour }	...	24
Blackdown Road	{ 1 Bedroom Flats }	...	12
Tone View	{ Cornish Unit }	...	10
	{ (Non-Parlour) }	...	44
	{ (Parlour) }	...	10
Howard Road	{ (1-Bedroom Flats) }	...	8
	{ (2-Bedroom Flats) }	...	12
	{ (Cornish Units) }	...	22
	{ (Non-Parlour) }	...	18
Parklands Road	{ Non-Traditional (Woolaway) }	...	14
	{ (2 Bedroom Flats) }	...	4
	{ Non-Parlour }	...	10
Oaken Ground	{ Non-Traditional (Woolaway) }	...	26
	{ 2 Bedroom Flats (12 traditional, (	12 Cornish Units) (	24
Stoneleigh	{ (Non-Parlour) }	...	16
	{ (2 Bedroom Flats }	...	12
Alexandra Flats	{ (2 Bedroom Flats) }	...	4
Court Drive	{ (2 Bedroom Flats) }	...	8
TOTAL.			604

Of the above 114 houses and 20 flats were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years under the Housing Acts, 1930 and 1936.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES.	TOTAL.	A G E G R O U P.								No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25 and over	Not known	
Measles	54	3	5	12	31	-	-	2	1	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

Notification rates for Wellington Urban District compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole are calculated as per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 total live and still births.

DISEASES.	No. of Notifications	Wellington U. D.	Rates for England and Wales.
Measles	54	7.32	12.36
Pneumonia	5	0.68	0.84
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	10.0	18.23

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIA. For the twelfth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District. There is no doubt that this can be largely attributed to the immunisation campaign which has been in progress for the past ten years. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the Circulars (193/45 and 194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of antigen before he begins school attendance.

The following figures show how immunisation is progressing in this District from the commencement of the Scheme.

Number of children who had completed full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952.

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15.
Year of Birth	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1944 - 1948	1939 - 1943	
Number Immunised	2	46	71	75	65	335	85	679

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table :-

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				D E A T H S			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	7	4	1	-	-	1	-	-

At the end of the year there were 43 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 7 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Register kept for this disease relating in this District.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk Trade, nor under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention of blindness and in particular for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within their area who are suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. This power is exercised by the County Council and cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, must be notified by the notifying practitioner direct to the Medical Officer of Health of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority (which in this case is the County Council) under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937. Prompt and early treatment is thus obtained and most of the cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.



